

VETERANS CLAIMS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the performance and structure of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, after receiving testimony from William P. Greene, Jr., Chief Judge, United States

Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; R. Randall Campbell, Assistant General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Richard Paul Cohen, National Organization of Veterans Advocates (NOVA), Inc., Christine Cote, National Veterans Legal Services Program, and Joseph A. Violante, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), all of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 4102–4112; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 807 were introduced. **Pages H13295–96**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H13296–97**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 806, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3222) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 (H. Rept. 110–435). **Page H13295**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rabbi Irwin N. Goldenberg, Temple Beth Israel, York, Pennsylvania. **Page H13209**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:07 a.m. for the purpose of receiving His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic. The House reconvened at 12:27 p.m., and agreed that the proceedings had during the Joint Meeting be printed in the Record. **Page H13209**

Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic: The House and Senate met in a joint session to receive His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic. He was escorted into the Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Hoyer, Clyburn, Emanuel, Larson (CT), Lantos, Markey, Skelton, Lewis (GA), Lowey, Capps, Boehner, Blunt, Putnam, Ros-Lehtinen, Gallegly, Stearns, Shimkus, Cantor, Wilson (SC), and Poe; and Senators Reid, Durbin, Dorgan, Leahy, Kerry, Lieberman, Feinstein, Boxer, Landrieu, McConnell, Lott, Kyl, Cornyn, Hutchison, Ensign, Snowe, Collins, and Smith. **Pages H13209–10**

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Communication: Read a letter from Chairman Oberstar wherein he transmitted copies of resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on October 31st. **Page H13213**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Hastings (WA) motion to adjourn by a ye-and-nay vote of 164 yeas to 254 nays, Roll No. 1051. **Page H13225**

Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2007: The House passed H.R. 3685, to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, by a ye-and-nay vote of 235 yeas to 184 nays, Roll No. 1057. **Pages H13216–53**

Rejected the Forbes motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House promptly with an amendment, by a ye-and-nay vote of 198 yeas to 222 nays, Roll No. 1056. **Pages H13250–52**

Accepted:

George Miller (CA) amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 110–422) that (1) provides explicitly that any religious corporation, school, association or society that is exempt under either Section 702(a) or 703(e)(2) of Title VII's religious exemptions is exempt under ENDA; it clarifies that the scope of Title VII's exemption is exactly the scope of ENDA's exemption (if a school is exempt from Title VII's religious discrimination prohibitions, it will also be exempt from ENDA); and (2) clarifies that ENDA does not alter the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in any way. It strikes language referencing "a same-sex couple who are not married" in the Employee Benefits section of ENDA. It also inserts language clarifying that the term "married" has the meaning given such term in DOMA, directly incorporating DOMA's definition of marriage (by a recorded vote of 402 ayes to 25 noes, Roll No. 1054) and **Pages H13243–45, H13249**

Souder amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 110–422) that strikes paragraph (3) of section 8(a), which prohibits employers from conditioning employment on a person being married or being eligible to be married (by a recorded vote of 325 ayes to 101 noes, Roll No. 1055).

Pages H13246–47, H13249–50

Withdrawn:

Baldwin amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 110–422) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have expanded ENDA's protections to persons discriminated against based on gender identity, defined as the gender-related identity, appearance, or mannerisms or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, with or without regard to the individual's designated sex at birth. The amendment included language concerning shared facilities, dress, and grooming standards, as well as a paragraph stating that the construction of additional facilities are not required. **Pages H13247–49**

H. Res. 793, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 1053, after agreeing to order the previous question by a recorded vote of 224 yeas to 192 noes, Roll No. 1052.

Pages H13216–17, H13226–28

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measure which was debated on Monday, November 5th:

Recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino: H. Con. Res. 236, amended, to recognize the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 396 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 1058.

Pages H13253–54

United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act: The House began consideration of H.R. 3688, to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. Further consideration is expected to resume Thursday, November 8th.

Pages H13254–94

H. Res. 801, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a recorded vote of 349 yeas to 55 noes, Roll No. 1059, after agreeing to order the previous question by voice vote.

Page H13263

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H13263.

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H13297–H13300.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H13225, H13227, H13227–28, H13249, H13249–50, H13252, H13252–53, H13253–54, H13263. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:18 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MEAT INDUSTRY RECALLS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry held a hearing to review recent recalls in the meat industry. Testimony was heard from Richard Raymond, M.D., Under Secretary, Food Safety, USDA.

INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 1328, Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 4043, Preserving and Expanding Minority Depository Institutions Act; H.R. 3915, Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act of 2007; H.R. 3837, amended, Escrow, Appraisal, and Mortgage Servicing Improvements Act; H.R. 4050, Levee-Like Structure Consideration Act of 2007.

Began markup of H.R. 4051, Housing Assistance Authorization Act of 2007.

Will continue tomorrow.

PAKISTAN

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on Democracy, Authoritarianism, and Terrorism in Contemporary Pakistan. Testimony was heard from John D. Negroponte, Deputy Secretary of State.

U.S. CAPITOL POLICE AND LIBRARY OF CONGRESS POLICE MERGER; CAPITOL CONSTRUCTION AND SLAVE LABOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Committee on House Administration: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 3690, U.S. Capitol Police and Library of Congress Police Merger Implementation Act of 2007.

The Committee also held a hearing on the Construction of the United States Capital: Recognizing the Contributions of Slave Labor. Testimony was heard from Senator Lincoln; Representative Lewis of Georgia, former Representative J.C. Watts of Oklahoma; William C. Allen, Architectural Historian, Office of the Architect of the Capitol; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 1312, Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) Act; H.R. 1759, amended, Managing Arson Through Criminal History (MATCH) Act of